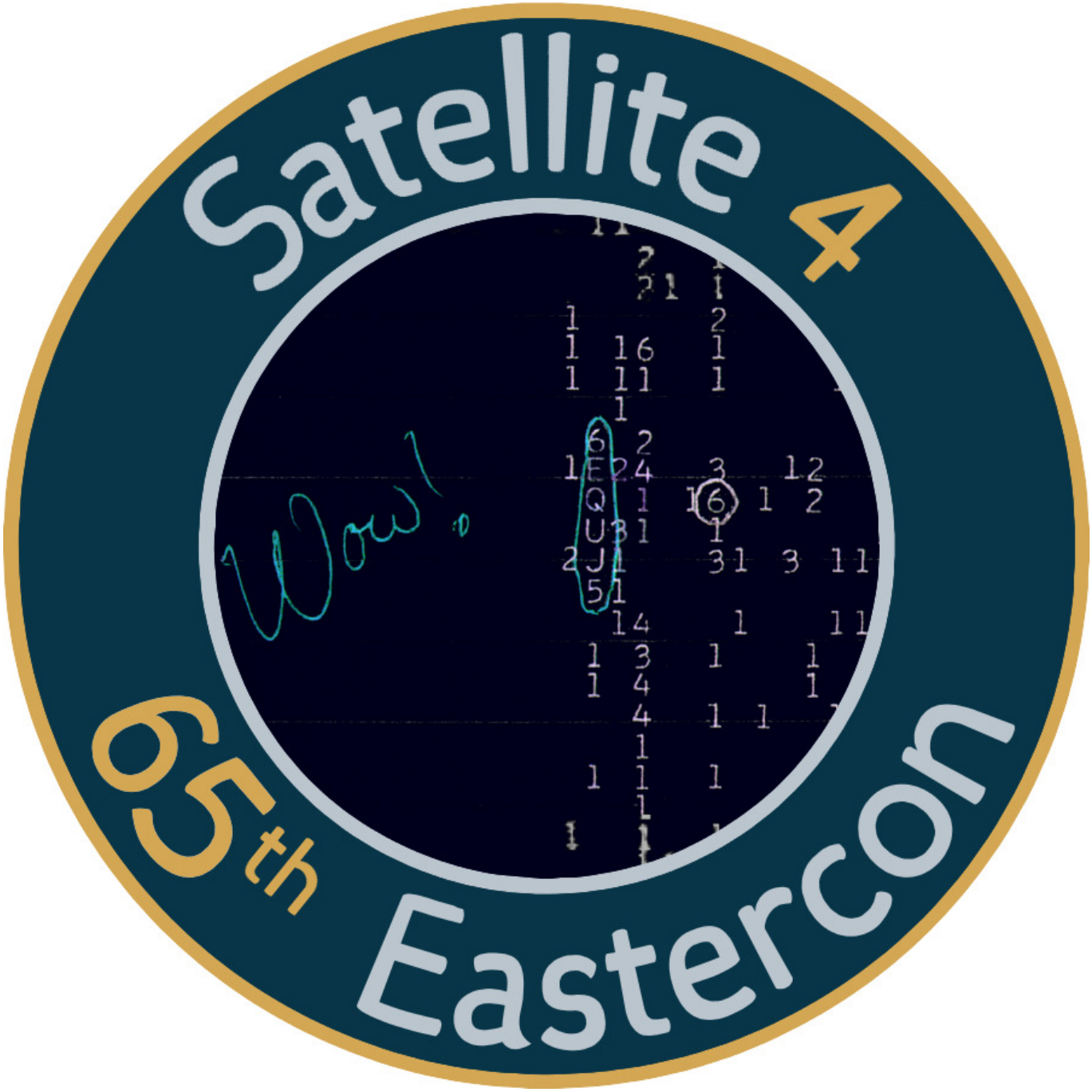

Reception

The fourth Progress Report for the
65th British National Science Fiction Convention
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow
18th – 21st April 2014

From the Chair

Like a pulsar emission, this is just a short burst from us to give you some last-minute news and travel directions and to remind you of things you might want to pack and bring to Glasgow.

For the committee we are on the (very busy) home straight! The programme is almost complete; our Guests of Honour are planning some really exciting contributions and, importantly, the real ale (and cider) is ordered! Our staff – the S4 Trojans – visited the hotel recently and are slowly, inexorably, drawing their plans together.

We are all very excited about the convention and looking forward to seeing you in Glasgow very soon.

Michael

Cover art by Mad Elf. Incidental art by Neil McChrystal. Material by Michael Davidson, Christine Davidson, Carolyn Sleith, Mad Elf, Mark Meenan. All data accurate as of 17/03/2014
Eastercon is a registered trade mark and is used with permission.

Volunteers!

Science Fiction Conventions couldn't exist without the help of their members, and Satellite 4 is no exception. We'd especially like to hear from everyone who would be willing and available to help us set up, especially on the Thursday before the convention, and the morning of the Friday.

So if you'd like to help put up signs, build the Art Show, move boxes around for Registration, or any other tasks we may have available, please fill out the volunteer form on the website:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=form_backstage

or contact us on one of the following email addresses:

artset@satellite4.org.uk (for Art Show setup)

gophers@satellite4.org.uk (for general on-site lifting and moving)

logistics@satellite4.org.uk (for off-site collections and supplies, especially if you can volunteer space on a vehicle)

Membership and Registration

Rates and Dates

A summary of the advance and on-the-door prices:

	Adult	**Unwaged**	**Junior** (12-17*)	**Child** (5-11*)	**Infant** (0-4*)
Advance	£65.00	£50.00	£20.00	£5.00	£1.00
On the Door	£75.00	£60.00	£30.00	£15.00	£3.00

* - Age on the day of the convention. Children and Infants must be accompanied by an adult.

Please note that advance memberships close on 04/04/2014. If you still need to buy memberships, sign up soon to take advantage of the reduced prices!

Full details, including our per-day rates, are on the website:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=join.

Joining On the Door

If you decide to wait until the day to join, please note that we cannot accept credit or debit card payments for memberships on the door. Cash and cheques are gladly accepted.

Converting from Supporting & Editing your Membership

Don't forget you can change your membership details and convert from Supporting by visiting the ***My Membership*** page on our website:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=my_membership

The system will email you a special link that gives you access to your membership form.

Personalise your Badge

You can personalise your membership badge when you're editing your membership. Go to the ***My Membership*** page to add your Facebook ID, Twitter name, your favourite quote or anything else you want on your badge. Space is limited to 24 characters (including spaces).

Registration Opening Hours

Registration will be open from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday, 10am to 6pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10am to 1pm on Sunday. Outside these hours please register at Ops.

Hotel

The Campanile and Crowne Plaza are now full for the core nights, however some rooms may become available later due to cancellations, either from fans now unable to come or from the other recurring contracts the Hotels have to honour. The Crowne Plaza still has a couple of two room suites available for a premium of an extra £100 per night. There are still plenty of standard rooms available in both the Hilton Garden Inn and the Marriott.

For the latest information on hotel availability and rates, please see the website:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=hotel

Hotel Booking Code Reminder

You can get a reminder for the hotel booking code by entering the email address you registered with in the ***Booking Code Reminder*** form:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=code_reminder

Getting There

Planes...

The hotel is 8 miles from Glasgow International Airport. A taxi from the airport will cost about £20.

The *First 500 Glasgow Shuttle* airport bus service runs every 10 minutes, 24 hours per day, between the Airport and the City Centre, calling at both Queen Street and Central Stations, as well as Buchanan Street Bus Station. An open return costs £8.50 per adult, £5.50 per child.

...Trains...

Glasgow has two major railway stations in the city centre, Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow Queen Street Station. The Crowne Plaza is less than 2 miles from either station, and a taxi should cost between £7 and £9.

The nearest railway station to the convention hotel is Exhibition Centre. This lies on the Argyle Line from Glasgow Central Low-Level Station. On exiting the station, turn sharp right and take the covered walkway towards the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC). The hotel is straight ahead.

...Buses...

Most inter-city buses into Glasgow arrive at Buchanan Street Bus Station. A taxi from there to the Crowne Plaza should cost between £7 and £9.

...and Automobiles

The hotel is adjacent to the SECC, the Clyde Auditorium (known locally as the 'Armadillo') and the famous 'Squinty Bridge' (aka the Glasgow Arc). The M8 motorway runs close to the venue and the SECC exit is Junction 19. Just point your satnav to G3 8QT, or follow the brown tourist signs bearing the name of the hotel.

These details can also be found on our website:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=getting_there

We'll keep it up-to-date with any important travel news that may come to light, so be sure to check back before travelling.

Parking

Parking rates at each hotel for their residents are:

	Crowne Plaza	**Marriot**	**Hilton Garden Inn**	**Campanile**
per Hour	£1.00	£1.00	n/a	Free
per Day	£6.00	£8.00	£5.00	Free

The Crowne Plaza car park is available to non-resident convention members at a discounted rate of £1 per hour (up to £9 per day).

The Programme

Convention Hours

The programme will officially run from the Opening Ceremony at 2pm on Friday, to the Closing Ceremony at 5pm on the Monday, followed by the Dead Laika (dog) Party for the rest of the evening.

Support for First-timers

Attending an Eastercon for the first time can be a little daunting. So we've recruited two experienced, approachable fans to provide dedicated support for our Eastercon Neos. There will be an opportunity each morning for those new to con-going to meet up with one another and with the NeoMum and NeoDad. You can get extra information about what's happening on that day, and friendly advice to help you get the most out of the convention.

Things to Bring

Costumes and other special clothing

There are three main opportunities for costuming at Satellite 4. The Ambassadors' Ball takes place on Saturday evening and members are invited, if you wish, to come dressed as delegations and dignitaries from across space and time. Those who wish may have their costume announced at the interval, and judged by an expert panel. Saturday is also Hall Costume Day. A prize will be awarded to whoever collects the most hall costume tokens. On Sunday evening we have the Modern Prometheus Disco, inspired by the 40th anniversary of cult movie *Young Frankenstein*.

Please be sure to have comfortable clothing for the ceilidh and swing dance workshops. Those participating in the Glasgow Hash House Harriers event are strongly advised to bring suitable running or walking shoes, and a light waterproof (it is Glasgow… and April…!)

Arts and crafts

There will be several arts and crafts workshops at Satellite 4, ranging from knitting, to mask-decorating, to sock-puppet making. A stock of basic materials will be supplied, but we'd be grateful if anyone who has spare scraps of, for example, felt, ribbon, wool/thread, coloured tissue paper etc, could bring these along to supplement the convention supply. Yarn will be on sale at the knitting workshop.

Also, if you have any knitting projects that you're stuck with, feel free to bring them along to the workshop, and our experts will try to help you out.

Games

As usual for an Eastercon, Satellite 4 will have a games room, which will run all day and into the early hours. All games are supplied by gamers coming to the convention so please feel free to bring along any games you wish to play, or would be happy to allow others to play: the more the merrier.

If you have any questions, please email: games@satellite4.org.uk

Poetry and music

Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell will be hosting a Space Poetry reading at Satellite 4. If you have a favourite poem about space, then please bring it along and it may be possible to fit it in. Programme slots have been set aside for you filkers out there – so please don't forget your instruments!

Old convention photos

Please bring along any interesting (or amusing) photos from years gone by, so that we can scan them, print them out, and display them as a collage on our Wonderwall for everyone to enjoy.

Items for the Fan Fund Auction

There will be a fan-fund auction on Saturday. Please being along any good quality unwanted items to help raise money for this important cause.

The 'Early Bird' Token System

The Satellite 4 programme will feature a number of limited availability items, for which members need to sign-up in advance. These include the Guest of Honour kaffeklatches, food and drink tastings, and some of the workshops. To try and distribute places as evenly as possible, each member will receive one 'early bird' token in their registration pack. Surrender this token to Ops on Friday afternoon from 3 pm onwards and you will be allowed to sign up for one limited availability item (subject to space being available).

From Saturday morning you may sign up for additional items

Writers may especially wish to use your early bird tokens to reserve a reading slot on Saturday evening at the 'Read for your Life!' slam reading session.

Miscellaneous Details

Crèche

Our free crèche will be run by Indigo Childcare in the Hilton Garden Inn. The crèche hours will be 2pm-5pm on Friday, 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm on Saturday and Sunday and 10am-1pm on Monday. Children must be picked up by parents between 1pm and 2pm for lunch. Pre-registration forms will be sent to all parents of children and infants. Walk-in places will be very limited.

Nearest ATMs

The nearest ATM is in the convention hotel foyer, but it charges for withdrawals.

The nearest *free* ATM is in the main concourse of the SECC, which is a very short walk from the convention hotel.

Art Show Payments

There will be an auction of artwork on Sunday afternoon. Please note that art bought at the auction can be paid by cash, cheque and credit/debit cards, although there will be a 3% surcharge for all credit/debit card payments.

Glasgow Apps

Looking for more information on Glasgow's restaurants, shops, transport and a whole lot more? Why not download some of the Glasgow Tourist Apps listed in PR3, or on the website:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=links

Stamps for Albatrosses

Don't forget to bring the stamps you saved up for our Albatross Appeal! Al and his family are relying on your help.

See our website for more details:

http://www.satellite4.org.uk/?page=albatross

Convention T-Shirts

T-shirts may be ordered via a form on our website's ***Join Satellite 4*** section, or in person, at £16 for sizes Small to XXXL (suitable for almost all fen), and £12 for Tiny (suitable for babies and soft toys). They can be collected in person, or posted anywhere in the UK for an additional £4 per t-shirt.

T-shirts are a single-sided print on black, with the main convention logo and details on the front, and a sleeve patch featuring our Mission Logo, the comet and stars.

Having Difficulties?

If you have difficulty accessing any of the forms mentioned in this document, please email us at: **enquiries@satellite4.org.uk** or write to us at:

Satellite 4,
c/o Flat 2/1,
691 Shields Road,
Pollokshields,
Glasgow
G41 4QL